

fiscal year 2018 should be 45,000—half of the historic average. Even more concerning, it is now clear that this administration is further rigging the admissions program to ensure that only a fraction of that number of people will be allowed in. In the first quarter of 2018, just 6,704 refugees were resettled, compared to 25,671 in 2017 and 13,791 in 2016.

The U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program—and the faith groups, organizations, families and individuals that assist it—supports the most vulnerable. These are the victims of torture, people with urgent medical needs, and desperate women and children. They are not safe in their home country. They have gone through extensive multi-agency vetting before even reaching the United States. We are witnessing the intentional dismantling of a program that has helped the world's most defenseless, built our leadership abroad and here at home helped create thriving, diverse communities across the country, including in places like Camden and Elizabeth in my home State of New Jersey.

Despite its effort to prove the opposite by commissioning a study by the Department of Health and Human Services, the administration's own report found that refugees have had a net positive economic impact in the United States over the past decade. The study concluded that between 2005 and 2014, refugees “contributed an estimated \$269.1 billion in revenues to all levels of government” and estimated the net positive fiscal impact of refugees over the 10-year period to be \$63 billion.

Alarming and horrifically, we have witnessed the administration's callous and misguided approach to migrants and refugees most recently on our southern border. American citizens and people around the world have watched in horror as U.S. officials are forcibly pulling babies and children out of their parents' arms, tearing families apart, and using preposterous defenses for their actions. This is not the United States I know. This is not the United States that has stood as a champion for the rule of law and human rights.

The President has blamed those fleeing persecution. He has blamed Democrats. He has taken no responsibility. His tweets have only gotten more hysterical. His repeated demands for a ridiculous wall are not a solution and only further fuel negative perceptions of the United States.

The party of “family values” has become the part of “family separation.” This “policy” is not required by U.S. law. This is a choice that this administration has made. It was a policy choice to charge asylum seekers in criminal court with illegal entry. In essence, it seems that President Trump and Attorney General Sessions want to turn every asylum seeker into a criminal and every child into a foster child.

It is easy to be distracted by the President's tweets and outlandish statements. The palace intrigue coming from the White House provide endless fodder for the talking heads on TV, but we cannot lose focus on the real harms being done to our fellow human beings and to our global standing.

On this World Refugee Day, let us come together and remember that part what makes America great is our open doors that have welcomed people from all over the world. We have been a shining city on a hill; a beacon of light and hope. Since 2001, the United States has settled nearly a million refugees. They are our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers. They sit next to your kid in school, and someday, they may grow up to be a Secretary of State like Madeleine Albright.

What kind of a country do we want to be? A country where we rip children from their parents? A country that keeps out refugees because of their religion? I have seen a quote posted on Twitter, pasted on signs at rallies, even on a church bulletin board—I don't know who said it first—but it bears repeating here: “Rather than a wall, America needs to build a giant mirror to reflect on what we've become.”

#### FOOD LABELING

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jacob's letter and my response letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEAR SENATOR RUBIO: Approximately a year and half ago I was diagnosed with Celiac, which means that I can only eat gluten free foods.

There are not a lot of things that are labeled gluten free and there should be more. A lot of things right now I have to look up to see if they're gluten free. I have read some articles that explain how every company should label their products. It's also hard to know for sure if something is safe to eat when I go food shopping, out with my friends, and to restaurants. It would be great if the government could find a way to put food labeling on packages consistently.

Thank you for putting your time into this.

Sincerely,

JACOB TANNENBAUM.

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
Washington, DC, June 20, 2018.

Jacob Tannenbaum,  
202 Royal Palm Way,  
Boca Raton, FL.

DEAR JACOB: Thank you for your letter regarding food labeling. Hearing from fellow Floridians on issues that affect millions of Americans, including children, is important for me to do my job in the U.S. Senate.

Food allergies are sometimes mild and easily preventable by avoiding consumption of certain foods, while other cases may be life-threatening. With respect to celiac disease, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) estimates that there are approximately 3 million people in the United States, like you, who must refrain from ingesting gluten.

Among its many roles, the FDA is responsible for ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply by enforcing labeling laws and regulations. The Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-282) was enacted to require a list of ingredients that may cause allergic reactions to be included on food labels. Further, the law tasked the Secretary of Health and Human Services to define the term “gluten-free” on food labels. The FDA issued its final “gluten-free” rule in 2013. Currently, all FDA regulated food products and dietary supplements (including imports from other countries) which bear a “gluten-free” label must comply with the agency's 2013 voluntary labeling law. Under the rule, “gluten-

free” means a food is either naturally gluten-free, is not constituted from gluten-containing grains, is constituted from gluten-containing grains that have been processed to remove gluten, or has an “unavoidable presence” of gluten of not more than 20 parts per million.

With the prevalence of food allergies impacting millions across our nation, the federal government plays an important role in enforcing voluntary labeling requirements, based on sound science, to ensure consumer safety and confidence. National, uniform, voluntary labeling standards establish consistency for businesses engaged in interstate commerce, while providing necessary protections for consumers to make safe choices when selecting what food products to purchase and eat. Mandatory labeling, however, could pose significant burdens on industry and produce confusion for consumers with a multitude of labels for every food allergy recognized by the federal government on each product.

I understand your concerns that it may be difficult at times to determine what is safe to eat. The good news is that we live in a country blessed with a plethora of food options, and a market that responds quickly to consumer needs and demands. This evolving market, in concert with federal standards for voluntary labeling, means that it will only get easier for all Americans to find the ingredient and nutrition you need to make safe and smart choices in the future.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you as your United States Senator, and I commend you for bringing awareness to this important issue.

Sincerely,

MARCO RUBIO,  
U.S. Senator.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I voted in favor of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that became law last year. Every day we are learning more about the positive impact this law is having on the economy and about average Americans having more money in their paychecks. While it is important to appreciate the effects that the tax law had on individuals, we should not forget that small businesses have benefited from the law as well. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I supported the legislation because I believed it would allow small business owners to invest in their businesses, increase overall economic growth, and reduce taxes for the millions of small businesses who employ the majority of Americans in every part of the country. I also saw the potential that the legislation would have, not just to give an economic boost to small businesses in my home State of Idaho, but to spark renewed confidence from small businesses across the country. A couple of weeks ago, I began this series of speeches to bring attention to small businesses that have benefited from this law.

While there are many stories about small businesses benefitting from tax reform, I rise today to talk about Dempsey Wood Products in Orangeburg, SC. Dempsey Wood Products offers a wide variety of high-quality pine and hardwood products to its customers. The company serves many different industries with kiln-dried lumber for the housing industry, pallet stock for pallet manufacturers, debarked chips for the paper industry,